

In the Claims

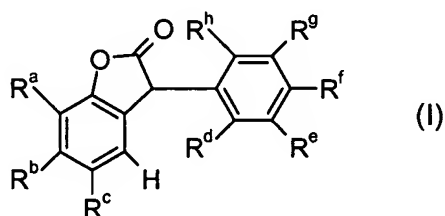
1. **(currently amended)** A ~~high-molecular-weight~~ ~~[[,]]~~ crosslinked polyvinyl butyral obtained ~~able by~~ ~~crosslinking a polyvinyl butyral with~~ by a process which comprises

adding at least one crosslinking reagent selected from the group consisting of benzofuranone and/or
with at least one the benzofuranone derivatives, of the same as crosslinking reagent to a polyvinyl
butyral and

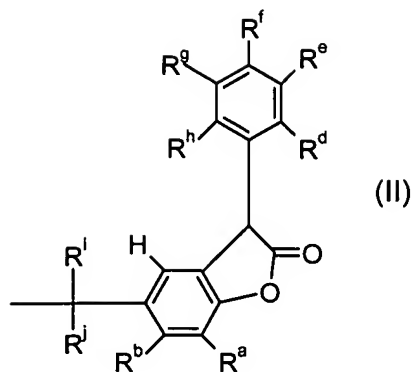
crosslinking the polyvinyl butyral thermally at temperatures in the range from 80 to 280°C,

wherein the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral exhibits an increased molecular weight.

2. **(currently amended)** The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 1, wherein the crosslinking ~~reagents used comprises compounds~~ are of the formula (I)



wherein R^a , R^b , R^d , R^e , R^f , R^g , and R^h independently of one another are hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-mono-, -di-, or -trisubstituted phenyl, C_7 - C_9 -phenylalkyl, unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-mono-, -di-, or -trisubstituted C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl, or C_1 - C_{18} -alkoxy, and R^c is as defined above for R^a , R^b , R^d , R^e , R^f , R^g and R^h or is a radical of the formula (II)



where R^a , R^b , R^d , R^e , R^f , R^g and R^h are as defined above and R^i and R^j independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, at least two of the radicals R^d , R^e , R^f , R^g and R^h being hydrogen.

3. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the crosslinking reagents ~~used comprise compounds~~ are of the formula (I), where

R^b is hydrogen, and/or

$R^d - R^h$ are hydrogen, and/or

R^a and R^c are C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl, ~~in particular tert-butyl~~ [[,]] or unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-mono-, -di-, or -trisubstituted phenyl.

4. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 4 [[,]] ~~2~~ [[,]] ~~or 3~~ [[,]] wherein the crosslinking reagents ~~used comprise compounds~~ are of the formula (I) [[,]] where R^c is a radical of the formula (II) and R^i and R^j are methyl.

5. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ [[,]] which comprises plasticizers.

6. (currently amended) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyvinyl butyral ~~as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims~~, which process comprises

adding ~~the~~ at least one crosslinking reagent selected from the group consisting of benzofuranone and the benzofuranone derivatives, and also, where appropriate, ~~the~~ a plasticizer to ~~the~~ a polyvinyl butyral,

where appropriate homogenizing the mixture and

crosslinking the polyvinyl butyral thermally at temperatures in the range from 80 to 280°C,

wherein the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral exhibits an increased molecular weight.

7. (original) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the crosslinking is catalyzed by addition of alkaline or acidic additives.

8. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 7, wherein the thermal crosslinking is carried out in an extruder.

9. (currently amended) A molding composition comprising the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~.

10. (currently amended) A film comprising the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~.

11. (currently amended) ~~The use of the film as claimed in claim 10 for producing~~ A laminated safety glass comprising a film according to claim 10.

12. (new) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the thermal crosslinking is carried out in an extruder.